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2023-24



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM UTTARANCHAL (SDFU)

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From the Desk of the Chairman, SDFU



It gives me immense happiness to present the seventh Annual Report of the Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU) for the fiscal year 2023-24.

Being a mountainous state, Uttarakhand routinely faces the challenges of frequent natural disasters and the detrimental effects of climate change at a non-negligible magnitude. These factors have resulted in outmigration, depopulation in the elevated regions of the state, and decreased production in our local agricultural sector, all of which have had detrimental consequences, especially to the rural livelihoods.

Upon reviewing the actions of the SDFU over the past year, I am both happy and enthusiastic to highlight the significant issues that our forum has sought to tackle, resulting in substantial accomplishments that have particularly benefited the people of Uttarakhand. The activities of the SDFU were defined by a plethora of initiatives and strategies that were united around the larger theme of collective dedication to continuous innovation and improvement in response to the aforementioned community and environmental challenges. The deployment of these endeavors has been resoundingly successful, particularly on account of the committed and collaborative participation of the state agencies, civil society organisations and community stakeholders.

The two notable events that stand out in this regard have been the consultative workshop on "Ecosystem-Based Approaches for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Food Production in Western Himalayas" and the 6th edition of the R.S. Tolia Forum 2023, among others. Marked by policy discussions and implementation programs along with field surveys and first-hand interactions among the farmers and villagers of the state, the former has been instrumental in facilitating adaptation to climate change, promoting environmentally friendly farming, engaging in exchanges for the implementation of effective carbon sequestration measures, and conducting ongoing investigations to enhance sustainable livelihoods in the villages of Uttarakhand.

The 6th R.S. Tolia Forum 2023 commemorated the enduring and steadfast spirit of Late Dr. Raghunandan Singh Tolia and his dedication to improving of the ecosystems of Uttarakhand, by organising a symposium under the theme of "Innovative Livelihoods in Rural Uttarakhand: Best Practices and Way Ahead." It attracted a diverse array of participants, including research scholars, civil society members and agency representatives, grassroot workers and many more. This colloquium witnessed engagements around the collective livelihood improvement of the rural vistas of Uttarakhand and acknowledged several state and civil society initiatives that have led to their amelioration in the past two decades. The assembly, at the same time, did not shy away from underscoring the challenges of outmigration, economical and infrastructural inequalities, the effects of climate change and COVID 19 induced friction; all that have presented substantial obstacles, particularly in rural Uttarakhand and consequently, the local agriculture sectors.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to all members of the SDFU, as well as to everyone who has stood with us over the last year in our pursuit of realizing our aspirations for a greener and more prosperous Uttarakhand.

We look forward for more fruitful and eventful years ahead.

SHRI STS LEPCHA

Chairman, SDFU

& Retd PCCF, Govt. of Uttarakhand

PREFACE

Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand is a civil society-led network platform with the mission to mainstream the concerns of Uttarakhand and its people in the development dialogue of the state. It functions as a platform to integrate the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders working across Uttarakhand and uses this to inform and influence policy at the state level. SDFU's mission is to integrate the knowledge and experience of multiple stakeholders working on diverse issues across Uttarakhand. Mountain independently, this is then used to inform and influence policy, at the state level.

SDFU aims to create a platform where these stakeholders integrate the collective knowledge and experience through an informed dialogue on identified themes for catalyzing action for sustainable development. Translating the dialogues further, our objective is to generate action on such themes through informed, relevant policies and action on the ground. SDFU is a decentralized and voluntary initiative of individual members and institutions and is affiliated with the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) as the state chapter organization for Uttarakhand, which is a civil society network formed in 2011 with the objective of providing stakeholders from the states of the Indian Himalayas region, a platform to discuss issues related to mountain development.

Consultative Workshop on "Ecosystem-Based Approaches for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Food Production in Western Himalayas"

The first consultative workshop entitled **"Ecosystem Based Approaches for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Food Production in Western Himalaya"** was organized at Sarg Training Centre, Sadi Tok, Ramgarh, District Nainital on August 11 – 12th, 2023. A total of 35 participants attended the workshop representing scientific, community-based organizations and van panchayat members. The workshop was sponsored by The Nainital Bank.



Day 1: Workshop at SARG Training Centre, Sadi Tok, Ramgarh

Objectives of Workshop

Main objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- i. To discuss the carbon sequestration potential of mountain ecosystems (forests and agro-ecosystems) thereby contributing to cost-effective climate mitigation strategies.
- ii. To sensitize the community-based organizations (CBOs) in the Western Himalaya (Uttarakhand) in management of forest resources for carbon as well as other co-benefits and its role in agroecology.

- iii. To develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the CBOs for baseline assessments of ecosystem services and natural climate solutions pathways such as reforestation, restoration of degraded land, natural farming and Agri-horticulture, and avoiding deforestation.
- iv. To identify key stakeholders for integrative ecosystem-based planning for natural climate solutions based on strong social inclusion principles and robust safeguards including leveraging from the traditional ecological knowledge of the mountain farm

Policy Recommendations

Based on the discussion, the following policy recommendations are made collectively by the group:

1. In order to scale up the carbon projects in the state of Uttarakhand, especially within VPs, it would be mandatory to establish the baseline data on the present state of Carbon stock. Subsequent to implementation of carbon projects in these forests in the form of protection, ecological restoration, avoided deforestation, a clear-cut target on carbon gains for the given time period should be fixed and agreed by the VPs as well as Forest Department. All the carbon gained within the given time period should be given the status of **Non-timber Forest Produce** earned by Van Panchayats. The amount of Carbon thus gained can be converted in monetary terms for compensation to Van Panchayats. Similarly, improved hydrology and enhanced flow of spring water from the well managed Van Panchayat Forests should be valued and due benefits should be given to the concerned Van Panchayats. The accrued carbon (black bonus) and water (blue bonus) should be appropriately brought into state level policy and practiced.
2. In order to incentivise the Van Panchayats for carbon sequestration it is recommended to follow a standard formula for estimation of carbon sequestered by way of fire protection, and controlled livestock grazing, and other biomass extraction. The Van Panchayats following such practices may be compensated as per the market rate from

the Capital Head of the state budget directly through Divisional Forest Officer. As of now there is no such provision to incentivise the Van Panchayats for protection of the forests

3. Currently there is no clear policy on protection of pollinators especially honey bees, butterflies, and moths in agro-ecosystems. It is recommended that the state agriculture and horticulture departments develop appropriate policies to protect these pollinators especially in the localities which are known for organic farming and fruit protection. It is to be noted that sources of such pollinators are Van Panchayats and surrounding forest ecosystems. Thus, the pollination services in agro-horticultural lands flow from the forest ecosystem. Therefore, appropriate policies and provisions should be made to compensate Van Panchayats for providing pollination services.
4. There is a need for amendment in the Van Panchayat Rules so that Van Panchayats can receive funds directly from the carbon financing projects. Further, provision should also be made to enable VPs to utilize such funds for carrying out forestry and conservation related works within the VP area.
5. All the hill farming in the state of Uttarakhand depends on integrated management of soil nutrients, soil moisture, fuel, fodder, and leaf litter supplies from the surrounding forests. According to one study nearly seven units of forests are required to sustain one unit of agriculture in the hills. However, there is no quantitative study to analyse the value of ecosystem services flowing from forests to agriculture. Therefore, all the carbon stored in the agro-ecosystems as well as village forests / Van Panchayat Forests should be bundled and applied for Carbon market. This will require policy level intervention.
6. There are many pockets of traditional agriculture in the hills where farmers have inherited immense traditional knowledge on sustainable farming especially on millet farming and processing of food grains for storage, use etc. Such farming practices have highest potential for climate change resilience. Efforts are needed to identify such farmers (Bare-feet Scientists), incentivise them and give due recognition in the form

certificates so that they can serve as resource persons for extension services in hill farming.

7. It is recommended that Government of India's Green Credit Programme (under MoEFCC) be implemented in the state of Uttarakhand especially in Van Panchayats and Biodiversity Management Committees. This would require amendment of State Van Panchayat and Biodiversity Rules.
8. In order to mitigate the crop losses incurred due to extreme weather events and as an adaptation to changing climate the state governments need to initiate crop insurance schemes and establish funds to meet various needs of the farmers.



Day 2: Field visit

Background The 'Sansakt Project'

The SUPA farm started with the conversion into biodynamic practices since 1998 and started the promotion of the BD system for other farmers in 1999 from the farms very neighbours. At that time the micro valley comprising of 65 ha and about 100 farmers were not aware on the different Organic practices. The usage of agro chemical was high and each farmer used 1 – 2 bags of DAP (Di Ammonium Phosphate) on his field each year. That is around 200 bags of DAP was being used in the valley. As the SUPA farm started to develop, initiatives were taken with

the neighbouring farmers to adopt Organic / Biodynamic practices. Some of the areas were also linked with different programs going on in the state with guidance from SUPA farms. After years of perseverance the SANSAKT project has taking shape into a contagious patch of area where Organic /Biodynamic Farming is being practiced. The farmers' fields are also certified under third party certification as well as PGS systems. Some of the produce like kidney beans, herbs etc are bought back by SUPA farms and some are linked to other buyers.

After conducting a preliminary survey of the Sarg Training Centre, the participants were given the opportunity to visit the villages and engage with local farmers practicing organic agriculture. Shri Jaman Singh Dangwal and Shri Gopal Singh Bisht shared their perspectives on organic farming and its relationship with climate change as follows:

1. **Shri Jaman Singh Dangwal**- He mentioned that the cultivation of peas and indigenous potatoes is prevalent in the area, with peas being a significant cash crop. Traditional bullock-driven farming practices have been replaced by machinery. Hybrid seeds have gradually supplanted the use of traditional seeds, which have become scarce in the region. Shri Dangwal emphasized the importance of transitioning back to organic farming practices. He has adopted organic farming methods to enhance soil fertility, employing up to 90 percent organic compost in his fields.

Additionally, he discussed the successful development of 22 *nali* land for organic apple cultivation, highlighting the absence of pollination issues in apple flower growth. He also noted that farmers previously faced severe crop pest problems, akin to epidemics in the region. However, the adoption of organic farming has eliminated the need for chemical pesticides due to the absence of pest attacks in their crops.

2. **Shri Gopal Singh Bisht**- He reported that Rajma (kidney beans) production has been adversely affected by insufficient snowfall. This year, the yields of apricots (Aadu) and apples were also lower. Comparing this year's harvest to the previous year, he noted a 50 percent decrease in his yields and attributed this decline to the impact of climate change.



Organic apple orchard at Sari village



Field Survey



Field survey



Meeting with Shri Gopal Singh Bisht



Interaction with Shri Jaman Singh Dangwal



Dr. GS Rawat and JC Kuniyal with an organic farmer



Collection of oak leaves for the Agro-ecosystem economy



Organic compost at the Sarg Training Centre



A villager is planting seeds in the agricultural field



Local transportation currently has a minimal carbon footprint



Lichen and mosses play a vital role in
conserving water



Women are the cornerstone of the hillside
agroeconomy

6th R.S Tolia Forum 2023



Late Dr. Raghunandan Singh Tolia, was a visionary son of mountains, scholar and beacon of action. 11th December also happened to be the International Mountain Day. It is noteworthy that one of the major contributions made by Dr. R.S. Tolia in newly established state of Uttarakhand was administrative reforms in forestry working and convergence between forest and rural development.

One-day workshop held on 11th December 2023 under the aegis of RST Forum an annual program was held in tribute to Late Dr RS Tolia. This year's theme was **"Innovative Livelihoods in Rural Uttarakhand: Best Practices and Way Ahead."** A one-day workshop which was attended by over 125 participants representing senior councilors, scholars, representatives of different line agencies and civil society organizations working in the state of Uttarakhand. The 6th RST Forum turned out to be exciting and emotional congregation ground of several professionals, retired government personal, members of civil society, grass root level workers etc. who had been associated with Dr RS Tolia and with the development eco system of the last decade. A number of persons were meeting each other after many years and the sharing which took place was an invigorating experience for most.



Objectives of Workshop

Main objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- Rural Livelihood has always been the most challenging issue of the state of Uttarakhand. A lot of energy and resources has been invested to bring about livelihood opportunities as well as create employment among the rural poor and unemployed youth in the last two decades.
- Dr Rs Tolia in his experience and vision strongly voiced the significance of forest based rural development in Uttarakhand. He initiated the narrative that the mountain communities of Uttarakhand had an indispensable symbiotic relation with the forest landscape for the fulfillment of their livelihood. Therefore, the macro management of the states rural vistas had to be done by a department which had the understanding and power of management of the forest as well as the rural development. Dr Tolia thus created the Forest and Rural Development Commissioner Branch (FRDC) in 2002 – 03 which brought under its umbrella all the line departments which were related to Rural development as well as the forest. The next decade a number of projects and programs supported government orders were passed to support the very basic development foundation of the state.
- The initial years of statehood coincided with the UPA governments large national plan to penetrate the rural society of the country and form Self Help Groups (SHG's). Programs like SJSY (Swarn Jayanti Swarajgar Yojna) overwhelmed the state government and the small rural development department was given large targets to form as many SHG's as possible. Not only was the rural development department involved in the SHG formation all departments including forest, agriculture, horticulture etc were tasked to form SHG's. In the first year of the state's existence itself most of rural Uttarakhand were a part of some SHG or the other.
- **Last 2 Decades :** In the last 23 years the rural development sector has seen large number of programs, projects and initiatives from the civil society and government to bring about livelihood enhancement in the state. Many villages and community members have benefitted in some way or the other and there may be other geographical locations where comparative gains have not been made. In the last decades the rural communities have taken giant steps in organizing themselves as groups, federations and other legal institutions.

Sectors like organic agriculture have benefitted with policy framework and support through different programs. There have been numerous schemes and projects in Horticulture, Fisheries, Sericulture and rural development which have immensely benefitted the rural communities in Uttarakhand. Rural regions have engaged

themselves in the rural tourism development through home stays, adventure tourism, new pilgrimage destinations etc.

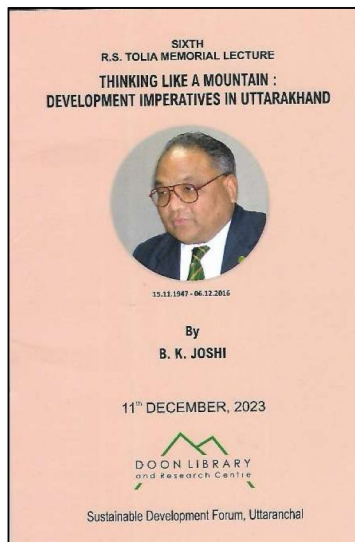
Challenges in the rural vistas

In 2016 it was reported by the newly formed Anti Migration Commission of Uttarakhand that there were 1564 ghost villages in the state, it also said that this was an upward trend. There is a substantial loss of agriculture land each year to change in land use. Uttarakhand has witnessed catastrophic disasters each year caused by natural factors like cloud bursts, GLOF, Forest Fires and Land Slides etc which has also challenged the smooth functioning of the different programs.

COVID 19 put the entire country in jeopardy where the rural areas of the entire country saw the exodus of the labor force come back into their villages. Uttarakhand too saw a large no of workforce come back. SDFU commissioned a study to find out the mood of the large population. During the lock down large tracts of agriculture land was worked upon and area under agriculture increased, people repaired their homes and addressed domestic issues pending for years. When the lock down was over they went back to their respective places. Whether the rural vista is flourishing or not or the growth is caused due to the residual movement from unknown sources it is unknown.



RST Lecture 2023 title: “Thinking Like a Mountain: Development Imperatives in Uttarakhand”



Dr BK Joshi (Founder Doon Library & Research Centre, Councilor SDFU, Former VC Kumaon University)

To think like a mountain means to have a complete appreciation for the profound interconnectedness of the elements in the ecosystems. It is an ecological exercise using the intricate web of the natural environment rather than thinking of an isolated individual. (Aldo Leopold, Thinking Like a Mountain)

Introduction

I feel deeply honored to be asked by the Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU) to deliver the Sixth R.S. Tolia Memorial Lecture. The SDFU is a product of Dr Tolia's vision for the mountains. It emanated as a support structure at the state level for the larger body, Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), which he was instrumental in creating after holding a major national level seminar at Nainital, which I had the privilege of attending. At Dr Tolia's request, I have been associated with SDFU as a councilor since its inception.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay my respects to Dr Tolia and recall my association with him going back to the late 1980s. I was then Director of the Lucknow-based Giri Institute of Development Studies, and he was the Milk Commissioner of UP. We hosted a meeting on the Development of Uttarakhand organized by the Uttarakhand Shodh Sansthan in which he was an active participant. Thereafter we came in close contact with each other as we shared many common concerns and ideas regarding development issues in Uttarakhand. Our contact became stronger when he assumed charge as Secretary of the Uttarakhand Development Department. When the Mulayam Singh Yadav-led government finally agreed to support the proposal for a separate Uttarakhand state, after having vehemently opposed it earlier, and appointed a cabinet committee headed by Shri Rama Shanker Kaushik to prepare a proposal for the formation of the new state Dr Tolia was the Secretary of the Committee in his capacity as Secretary of the department concerned. At its first meeting, Dr Tolia got the committee to agree to involve the Giri Institute of Development Studies and me personally in its work. I then worked closely with Dr Tolia in the Committee. In 1996 I moved from Lucknow to Nainital on being appointed the Vice Chancellor of Kumaon University. Dr Tolia was then Director of the UP Academy of Administration. Our association continued there as well. From Nainital, I moved to Dehradun and when Uttarakhand came into existence in 2000 Dr Tolia also came

here and played a leading role in setting up the administrative structure for the new state. Our association resumed and continued till his untimely passing away. Over the years I developed great regard and admiration for Dr Tolia, especially his unwavering commitment to the development of the mountain areas and regard for evidence-based research as an input into public policy. I have elsewhere referred to him as a “Quintessential Mountain Man.”

“My lecture is in three parts. In the first part, I attempt to understand development in a wider contemporary global context. In the second part, I try to relate the insights from the study of development to the situation prevailing in vulnerable mountain areas like Uttarakhand. In the third and final part, I attempt to understand how development policies can be tailored to promoting and protecting the livelihoods of common people which bears a relation to the theme of this year’s RST Forum. “



I

Development, properly understood, is a multi-dimensional concept straddling economic, social, and political domains. To put it briefly, one cannot consider a society or country developed in the true sense of the term if it shows progress in only one area, e.g., economic without corresponding progress in social and political areas. Such a development can only be characterized as inadequate, incomplete, or even warped. Along with the economic, social, and political domains, now there is increasing recognition that the ecological domain should also have equal importance. Hence, the notion of sustainable development is now being widely advocated at the international and national levels. The current concern with climate change and the threat it poses to the future of human civilization has added an element of added significance and even urgency to ecological issues in development as currently understood and practiced. Development, moreover, is an inherently normative concept: it is about achieving a state that we consider desirable and worth achieving.

While at the conceptual level, the holistic and many-dimensional view of development is recognized, this clarity tends to break down in implementation. There is a widespread tendency to restrict development to the economic domain to the neglect of the other dimensions, though lip service may be paid to them while implementing development policies and programs. In practice, they are at best add-ons that are jettisoned at the first sign of crisis. In respect of the economic dimension, too, almost exclusive emphasis is given to economic growth. Thus, development tends to be equated with increased rates of economic growth as measured by growth in the Gross National Product, a widely accepted summary measure of the health and performance of the economy. Even though the limitations of GNP as a measure of development are accepted, there is no serious move to transcend it or replace it with a more appropriate measure on the part of national governments and important international

institutions. Hence economic growth continues to define the development discourse despite its accepted limitations. One of the problems with economic growth as a concept is that it represents a process without an end. Every country, irrespective of how rich it may be, wishes to grow. Lack of economic growth implies stagnation which is considered a fate worse than death! For the poor countries of the world, the pursuit of economic growth is like running on a treadmill to catch up with their rich counterparts – an exercise doomed to failure.

A more fundamental problem with the pursuit of economic growth in the name of development is that it is now running up against the wall of environmental constraints. Growth is both resource-intensive and pollution intensive. The resource intensiveness of the modern economic growth path to development was first highlighted back in 1972 by the report to the Club of Rome titled *Limits to Growth*. It attempted to estimate how much longer particular natural resources would last given the existing rates of consumption. Though this report was dismissed as unduly pessimistic and based on wrong premises and ignored the power of technology to overcome the constraints which it highlighted, the basic point made by it is still valid, viz., natural resources on which we are increasingly dependent to sustain economic growth are finite. Hence there is a limit to how long we can continue consuming them at current, let alone increasing rates. In addition to being a heavy consumer of natural resources, economic growth is also a heavy generator of pollution. This fact too has been consistently highlighted since the latter half of the previous century. An early example of this concern is Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* published in 1962 which highlighted the harm caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides. It held the chemical industry responsible for spreading disinformation, and public officials for not doing enough to counter the disinformation. A third consequence of economic growth policies, pursued across the world in the post-World War II period, is an increase in inequality. The benefits of growth have been unequally distributed across countries and within countries.

These concerns have been articulated at numerous international conferences and reports of commissions over the years. Mention may be made in this context of the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972; the UN Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit, held at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992; the report of the Brundtland Commission titled *Our Common Future*, (1987) which brought to the fore the concept of Sustainable Development. Mention may also be made in this context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, an international treaty to “combat dangerous human interference with the climate system”. The UNFCCC came into force in 1994 and has been ratified by 198 countries known as parties. It has been holding periodic Conference of Parties (COP) with COP 28 currently on in Dubai.

Soon after the Stockholm Conference, the world was confronted with a major crisis in 1973. Following the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973, also known as the Yom Kippur War, the Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) raised the price of oil

four times plunging the world economy into deep crisis. The worst affected were developing countries like India which are heavily dependent on the import of oil. Although the crisis led to a search for alternative sources of energy, especially renewable sources like wind and solar power, the world is still heavily dependent on fossil fuels for powering their economies. As a result, the emission of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, is on the increase. The consequences in the form of climate change due to global warming are now plaguing us. In 2015, 195 signatory countries signed an international treaty known as the Paris Agreement that pledged to hold the Earth's temperature to "well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels," and going further, aim to "limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels." The 28th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is again seeking consensus on ways to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees, help vulnerable communities to adapt to the effects of climate change and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Sad to say, eight years down the line we are nowhere close to achieving the target of limiting the rise in temperature. Writing in the Indian Express on November 22, 2023, Amitabh Sinha points out:

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut by at least 43% from the 2019 levels by 2030, to retain any realistic chances of keeping the rise in global temperatures within 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial averages. That means that global emissions, around 56 billion tons of CO₂ equivalent in 2019, would have to come down to about 32 billion tones by 2030.

But as revealed by the latest Emissions Gap Report, emissions are rising. Global emissions in 2022 were at least a billion tones higher than in 2019. In fact, annual emissions have never shown a decline except in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic year. Meeting the 2030 target would now mean ensuring a reduction of almost 9 percent on an average every year. This is almost impossible. By way of comparison, even a disruption as big as Covid could cut emissions by just 4.7%. Current levels of climate actions are projected to result in a reduction of just 2 percent emissions, or just about a billion tones by 2030 from 2019 levels.

The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in his address to COP 28 "urged world leaders...to plan for a future without fossil fuels, saying there was no other way to curb global warming". In response to the Conference President Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber's proposal to continue embracing fossil fuels he is reported to have minced no words in saying: "We cannot save a burning planet with a fire hose of fossil fuels. The 1.5-degree limit is only possible if we stop burning all fossil fuels. Not reduce. Not abate." (Economic Times, December 2, 2023)

II

The above issues acquire added importance while conceptualizing development in mountain areas like Uttarakhand, which are characterized by a high degree of fragility and vulnerability

to natural disasters. Consequently, it is imperative that a proper balance between the needs of development and environmental preservation is struck. Historically people living in these areas had devised ways of living in harmony with natural forces so that even as their lives were vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquakes, landslides, cloud bursts etc., these did not result in too great a disruption. The reasons lay in the fact that traditionally these societies were agrarian or agro-pastoral where people lived a life of bare subsistence and shared poverty with low or minimal dependence on external inputs. In economic terms, it may be said that they existed at a low equilibrium level. As the idea of “development” became the new watchword, especially in the post-independence period, it caused great turbulence in the lives of the people. For one, development brought in its wake the emphasis on economic growth and modern technologies that while promising dramatic results also caused major disruptions. For instance, traditionally people in the rural areas lived in relative isolation, but with the coming of roads, their mobility also increased. However, given the subsistence level of the mountain economy the availability of roads meant increasing import of goods from outside, and the corresponding export of resources, forest-based and mining products leading to deforestation. Loss of valuable forest cover had serious implications for the agrarian economy by way of reduced underground percolation of water and its availability in springs and streams that are the main sources of water for domestic use and irrigation. Another consequence of the construction of roads was that it facilitated the migration of people from the area in search of employment and livelihoods outside the region since the local economy was unable to provide these in adequate numbers. Thus, with the onset of development while the economy moved to a higher level of equilibrium, the overall impact on the lives of the people turned out to be disruptive.

Deforestation and migration have been the two recurring issues in the mountain villages of Uttarakhand in recent years. Together they have increased the vulnerability of the people’s lives in the rural areas. As a result of deforestation, the depredation of wild animals has increased and posed a serious threat to the viability of agriculture and horticulture. There is increasing evidence of households either abandoning cultivation of their fields or limiting it and moving to nearby roadside settlements in search of better education facilities for their children and medical facilities for the family, with more family members migrating out of the hills in search of work and livelihoods. This has resulted in many villages bereft of any people – the so-called ‘ghost villages’ - or villages where only the elderly are left to lead a lonely life since they refuse to abandon their ancestral homes.

Another aspect of the crisis facing the rural areas of Uttarakhand is the impact of increased literacy and education. It is a truism that agriculture in the mountain districts rests on the signal contribution of women. They carry out all the major agricultural operations, except ploughing the land, taking care of animals, fetching firewood and fodder and performing all household chores. With girls now getting educated they are reluctant to lead the hard life that

their mothers and grandmothers led. They naturally aspire to urban jobs and life. This may also be one of the reasons for an increasing tendency among rural households to shift to nearby towns or roadside settlements.

While envisioning a development future for Uttarakhand a few imperatives need to be underlined. First, we must bear in mind that Uttarakhand is not an exclusive mountain state. It has a considerable area and population in the plains. The plains, encompassing the whole of Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar districts, the Doon Valley and the Bhabar tract of Nainital district, have a clear developmental advantage in terms of agriculture, industry, and service sectors. The lead that the plain areas have over the mountain areas is evident from the data on District Domestic Product (DDP) and Per Capita Income (Table 1 below).

Table 1

District Wise DDP and Per Capita Income at Current Prices: 2021-2022

District	District Domestic Product (Rs - Crores)	Per Capita Income (Rs)
Uttarkashi	4,488.4	1,07,281
Chamoli	6,270.5	1,27,330
Rudraprayag	2,838.9	93,160
Tehri Garhwal	8,244.6	1,033,45
Dehradun	50,686.8	2,35,707
Pauri Garhwal	9,679.7	1,08,640
Haridwar	85,636.2	3,62,688
Pithoragarh	7,271.8	1,18,678
Bageshwar	3,226.1	98,755
Almora	8,606.3	1,00,844
Champawat	3,804.9	1,16,136
Nainital	23,463.6	1,90,627
Udham Singh Nagar	57,579.2	2,69,070

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Uttarakhand, State Domestic Product Estimates

Relative economic prosperity in the plain districts is also accompanied by a larger population share and higher population growth than in the hill districts (Table 2). In fact, the population growth data between 2001 and 2011 seem to suggest a movement of population from the hill districts to the plains. Thus, Haridwar, Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar districts had a decadal population growth rate of more than 30 percent, followed by Nainital at over 25 percent. On the other hand, population growth was negative in two districts (Pauri Garhwal and Almora), in single digits in five (Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar) and above 10 percent in two (Uttarkashi and Champawat) during the same period. This trend has continued since 2011, but in the absence of recent census data, no definite assertions can be made. However, it fits in with the narrative of heavy migration from the mountain districts that has been a recurrent feature of popular and informed opinion in the state. This view also received official imprimatur when in 2017 the state government appointed the Migration and Rural Development Commission to study and report on the phenomenon of migration from the state and suggest measures for its amelioration.

Table 2

District Wise Population 2001 & 2011 and Decadal Population Growth

District	Population 2001	Population 2011	Growth %
Uttarkashi	2,95,013	3,30,086	11.89
Chamoli	3,70,359	3,91,605	5.74
Rudraprayag	2,27,439	2,42,285	6.53
Tehri Garhwal	6,04,747	6,18,931	2.35
Dehradun	12,82,143	16,96,694	32.33
Pauri Garhwal	6,97,078	6,87,271	(-) 1.41
Haridwar	14,47,187	18,90,422	30.63
Pithoragarh	4,62,289	4,83,439	4.58
Bageshwar	2,49,462	2,59,898	4.18
Almora	6,32,866	6,22,506	(-) 1.28
Champawat	2,24,542	2,59,648	15.63
Nainital	7,62,909	9,54,605	25.13
UdhamSingh Nagar	12,35,614	16,48,902	33.45

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Uttarakhand, Statistical Diary, 2015-16

The above data points to a clear divide in economic performance between the mountains and the plains. This strikes at the very root of the idea that propelled the demand for a separate state of Uttarakhand viz., the development needs of the mountainous areas were different from those of the rest of Uttar Pradesh. The unfortunate legacy seems to continue in the new state as well. The concentration of economic power and opportunity in the plain areas and movement of population to the plains is also leading to a gradual shift in the balance of political power to the plains, raising a question mark over the very *raison d'être* of a separate state of Uttarakhand. Regardless, Uttarakhand should try to bridge the mountain-plain divide by formulating separate development plans for the mountains and plains while, simultaneously, emphasizing linkages between the two areas. The mountains need the plains as markets for their products; the plains need the mountains as sources of important inputs – timber, minerals, temperate fruits and vegetables, and hydropower to name some of the more important ones. However, the exchange between the two areas must be organized on the principle of reciprocity and mutual benefit, instead of being one-sided and exploitative.

III

I now come to the third and final part of my talk which deals with the possible development paths that the state can profitably pursue. A few preliminary observations would be in order. Firstly, we must keep in mind that a state within the Indian federal structure has only limited freedom to choose its development policies and path. To put it bluntly, given the national policy of pursuing the path of accelerating economic growth, a state must willy nilly fall in line, even if it believes that unbridled growth carries ecological costs which are best avoided. Recurrent disasters in the state attributed to development-related projects – Kedarnath floods, Rishiganga and Tapovan-Vishnugad hydro projects, land subsidence in Joshimath and the tragedy in the under construction Silkyara tunnel on the Char Dham road project – are just a few recent examples of ecological costs associated with economic development. Secondly, states, especially small mountain states with a weak economy, are heavily dependent on the central government for finances. A large part of their development expenditure comes in the form of grants from the central government. This arrangement has been institutionalized through the mechanism of special category states, in existence since 1969. Special category states receive 90 per cent of the funds in schemes sponsored by the Central government, as against 60 to 75 per cent that other states receive. With a plethora of centrally sponsored schemes in operation, states which are perennially short of funds must perforce follow the guidelines of the Centre in implementing the schemes.

Keeping the above constraints in mind, Uttarakhand must formulate its development policies and plans with a view to (1) bridging the mountain-plain divide; (2) creating conditions for livelihoods and gainful employment in the mountain areas; and (3) using the inherent strength of the mountain areas and people for achieving the above objectives.

The key to development of mountain areas lies in harnessing the third of the above three propositions. Once that is taken care of the first and the second will follow. Hence it is important to identify these strengths. Among the characteristics or strengths of the mountains identified by the World Economic Forum the following deserve special mention.

Many mountains have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and biosphere reserves, recognizing they play a key role in sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity. Mountains host 25% of the world's biodiversity on land, and are home to highly specialized species that wouldn't survive elsewhere.

Maize, potatoes, barley, sorghum, quinoa, tomatoes, and apples - six of the 20 plant species that supply most of the world's food - originated in mountain areas. Many high-value and high-quality foods are also produced by mountain communities, such as coffee, cocoa, honey, herbs, and spices, improving livelihoods and boosting local economies.

Almost a third of the world's forests can be found in mountainous regions, containing a diverse range of specialized trees that can't survive in the lower reaches. As well as providing a home and supporting unique ecosystems, these trees play a vital role in regulating the regional climate. Absorbing huge quantities of rainwater, they are also crucial to preventing erosion, landslides and rockfalls.

Most of the world's fresh water comes from mountains.....This water is also vital in the production of hydropower. Some countries rely exclusively on mountain regions for hydropower generation.

With reference to the mountain areas of Uttarakhand we find the strength of the region lies in their being sources of biodiversity, home to important food, horticultural and commercial crops, fresh water stored in the numerous glaciers, and hydropower potential. To this list intangibles like a healthy climate, clean and unpolluted environment may be added, blessed with natural beauty that attract visitors, and last but not least a literate and educated population. The state should build on these to fashion its development strategy for the mountains.

In concrete terms this implies promoting a shift from subsistence cultivation that characterizes agriculture in large parts of the mountain districts to higher value commercial crops like off-season and exotic vegetables, spices, herbs etc. in which the area has comparative advantage, and which can also give good returns in small

holdings endemic to the area. Before this transition can happen the people, especially women on whom the agricultural economy of the mountain's rests, must be taken into confidence and convinced of the benefits of the transition. They should also be assured that their family's needs of foodgrains will be taken care of through appropriate measures till such time as they are able to earn enough money to meet their family's needs. This must be accompanied by regular and continuous contact and orientation and appropriate training in the new skills required. The government and its extension agencies are ill-suited for this task. Services of NGOs and community-based organizations that are already active in implementing livelihood and skill development programs in rural areas should be sought on a large scale. A special window in the form of an organization for outreach to NGOs and CBOs could be created in either the planning or rural development department of the government and given responsibility for this task. Its leitmotif and guiding philosophy should be carrying the people along with dedication and utmost patience and empathy, rather than functioning in a normal bureaucratic and control mode. Quite clearly this is a tall order, but without it the transition is not likely to make any headway. One advantage of attempting this transition is that the educated youth, both men and women, who have no interest in pursuing traditional subsistence agriculture and are looking for employment opportunities in urban areas or outside the region, may be motivated to pursue the new livelihood opportunities likely to arise. Maybe wishful thinking, but worth a try.

As regards hydropower, there is no doubt that the mountain areas have a large untapped potential, but we should not ignore the alarm that has been sounded by certain recent events, not just in Uttarakhand but across the Himalayan belt from Himachal Pradesh to Sikkim. We must proceed with extreme caution in this regard.

The wisdom of locating hydropower projects in the high Himalaya which is highly vulnerable to various natural disasters is questionable. Apart from individual projects causing damage to the already fragile ecology, we also have a series of projects on certain rivers resulting in the rivers running almost dry for extended stretches. Hence it would be wiser to tap the hydropower potential of Himalayan rivers at lower altitudes, closer to the plains which in any case, are the main consumers of power.

Finally, a few words about tourism which has been an important contributor to the economy of the mountain areas of Uttarakhand. The tourism that we see here is of two kinds – religious and recreational. Both attract large numbers of people. It provides employment and sustenance to a fairly large number of people. Unfortunately, the impact of the large tourist influx in recent years is having a negative impact on the environment. There is clearly a need to regulate the number of people that can visit the places of pilgrimage, especially the Char Dhams, and the established hill stations, at any one time to lessen the environmental load on them. This is easier said than done. The few halting attempts to do so have met with strong resistance from locals who stand to benefit from tourism. However, lest we kill the golden

goose of tourism, some hard decisions related to easing the pressure of tourists on religious and other places will have to be taken and implemented. At the same time new destinations for recreational tourism and organized trekking, mountaineering, and nature trails should be developed to lessen the burden on the existing hill stations by encouraging tourists to explore new areas across the state.

Conclusion

To conclude this brief discussion of development issues in Uttarakhand, more specifically in the mountain areas of the state, I wish to underline that the emphasis should not be on a single-minded pursuit of economic growth as the main criteria of development. Instead, the state should adopt a people-centered approach with emphasis on improving livelihoods based on local resources and knowledge. Simultaneously, the state should build on its unique advantages in the areas of ecology, biodiversity, utilization of niche products and upgrading the quality of human resources through education and skill development. I would make a strong argument for an approach akin to that proposed by E. F. Schumacher in his seminal book *Small is Beautiful*. It comes quite close to Mahatma Gandhi's ideas and the concept of the economy of permanence propounded by the well-known Gandhian economist J. C. Kumarappa. It is worth recalling the subtitle of Schumacher's book: *Economics as if People Mattered*. My own belief is if such an approach is adopted, economic growth will follow. Moreover, economic growth attendant on this approach will also be accompanied by better distribution, instead of the concentration of wealth and increased inequality that have been the hallmark of the existing model of economic growth-based development.



Conclusion and Recommendations

Dr. Rajendra P. Dobhal, VC SRHU, Jolly grant, chaired the concluding session. He said that one of the biggest sectors identified in India and specially Uttarakhand was the herbal sector. In 1995, Dr Dobhal said that he was a part of a team to frame the Vision 2020. It was conceived that the herbal sector should be apriority sector and have a business turnover of 3500 Cr. Today Patanjali alone owns a 76 Cr business. Based on herbs and ayurveda. Dr Dobhal talked about the importance of Technology Forecasting which is not be conducted in an inefficient way. For examples solar power was to be a huge impact in the country which did not happen in the way it could be. Dr Dobhal said I would like to conclude that Technology Forecasting should be one of the importance partners in development.

Dr. GS Rawat, Vice Chairman SDFU, steered the concluding session. Dr Rawat encompassed a comprehensive summary of the salient points derived from each segment of the Forum.



4.1. Best Practices in Innovative Livelihoods in Rural Uttarakhand:

S. No.	Innovative Programs	Livelihood	Success Stories

1.	Water Conservation Program	Civil Societies such as Himmotthan and the Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project (UFRMP)-JICA Community have been actively engaged in implementing robust water conservation programs. These initiatives aim to address the pressing issue of water scarcity, ensuring sustainable water resources for rural communities.
2.	Onion Seed Production	The Forum shed light on successful initiatives centered around onion seed production. These practices not only contribute to agricultural self-sufficiency but also foster community resilience by creating a localized and reliable seed supply.
3.	Honey Value Chain	Recognizing the ecological and economic significance of apiculture, societies like Himmotthan and the Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project (UFRMP)-JICA Community are actively involved in implementing Honey Value Chain projects. These initiatives promote stable honey and wax supplies, offering a sustainable livelihood option for communities in both hilly and plain conditions.
4.	Native Badri Cow - Ghee (A2 Beta Casein)	The Forum accentuated the value of native cattle breeds, specifically the Badri Cow, and their contribution to sustainable livelihoods. The emphasis on A2 Beta Casein in ghee production not only aligns with nutritional considerations but also supports local dairy economies.

5.	Women-Led Groups for Deforestation Tackling	Innovative approaches involving women-led groups have been formulated to address the critical issue of deforestation. These groups play a pivotal role in implementing strategies to counteract deforestation, contributing to environmental conservation.
6.	Women-Led Group in Almora - Turmeric, Ginger, and Chili Production	A noteworthy highlight from the Forum is the success story of women-led groups in Almora, focusing on the marketing and production of turmeric, ginger, and chilies. This initiative not only empowers women economically but also promotes the cultivation of valuable local produce.

The Forum, under Dr. GS Rawat's adept guidance, brought forth a wealth of insights into the innovative livelihood practices shaping rural Uttarakhand. These practices, spanning water conservation, seed production, apiculture, sustainable cattle rearing, and women-led initiatives, collectively contribute to the sustainable development and resilience of communities in the region.

4.2. Challenges and the Path Forward: Navigating Complexities for Rural Sustainability

As we embark on the journey towards rural sustainability, a multitude of challenges emerges, each demanding thoughtful consideration and strategic solutions. The symposium delved into these challenges, identifying key areas of concern and paving the way for a collective vision of the future.

S. No.	Key areas of concern	Summary of Discussion
1.	Addressing Human-Animal Conflict in Buffer Zones	The pressing issue of human-animal conflict, particularly in villages situated in the buffer areas of National Parks, stood out as a major challenge. Participants emphasized the urgency to establish comprehensive policies that unify localized

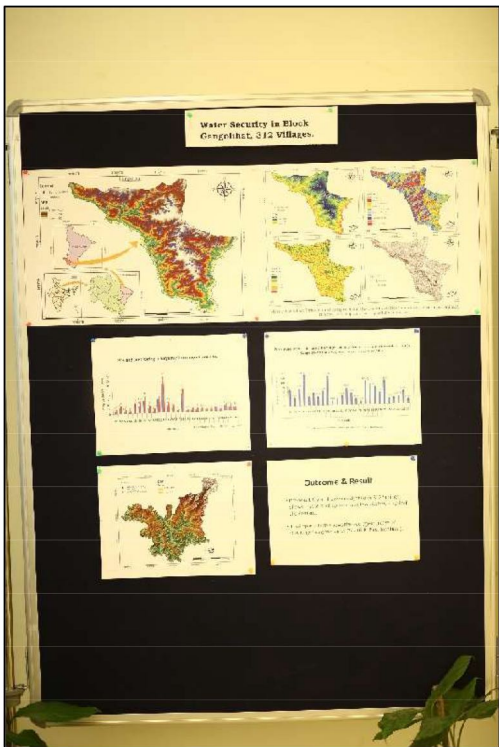
		efforts, ensuring the safeguarding of lives, both human and wildlife.
2.	Centralized Policy Formation	A crucial aspect that resonated throughout the discussions was the need for a centralized policy framework. Participants stressed the importance of a unified approach to consolidate diverse efforts at the grassroots level, fostering a more impactful and cohesive strategy for rural development.
3.	Retaining Youth in Rural Areas	A critical concern addressed was the migration of youth from rural villages. The forum contemplated strategies to incentivize the youth to remain in their native villages, exploring avenues for education, employment, and community engagement that would make rural living more attractive.
4.	Mitigating the Impact of Seasonal Changes on Agriculture	Seasonal variations affecting agricultural productivity posed a significant challenge. Discussions centered around the need for adaptive agricultural practices, technological interventions, and support systems to buffer the adverse effects of climatic changes on rural livelihoods.
5.	Standardizing Market Value for Rural Produce	An integral part of sustainable rural development is ensuring fair market value for rural produce. Participants deliberated on strategies to standardize pricing mechanisms, creating transparency and fairness for both producers and consumers, thus fortifying the economic backbone of rural communities.

6.	Eco-Tourism Promotion: In-Depth Market and Tourism Trends Analysis	Before embarking on initiatives to promote eco-tourism in hill states, a thorough analysis of markets and tourism trends was deemed essential. The forum emphasized the significance of understanding market dynamics, tourist preferences, and ecological sensitivities to develop sustainable and responsible ecotourism models.
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In essence, the symposium provided a comprehensive platform to not only identify challenges but to collaboratively envision a path forward. The multifaceted nature of these challenges requires a holistic and integrated approach, bringing together stakeholders, policymakers, and local communities to create a resilient and sustainable rural landscape.



Photos of Local community products and Exhibition





11th Meet of the Mountain States 2024

Meet of the Mountain States 2024, the annual event of Integrated Mountain Initiative was held on 22 March 2024 in New Delhi coinciding with World Water Day on the theme titled **“Water Resources in the Himalaya - Disaster Resilience and Reduction”** with the Honourable Speaker of Uttarakhand Assembly Smt Rita Khanduri as the Chief Guest. The event was organised to bring national focus on the Himalaya as a multi hazard landscape that is a complex interplay of events across timelines and ecosystems that need to be understood beyond single disaster events, relief and rehabilitation only. The meet was supported by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) and Sustainable Development Forum Uttaranchal (SDFU). A photography exhibition on the Teesta Disaster was also put up on the sidelines of the meeting.

A workshop which was attended by over 60 participants representing Key policy makers, Government department representatives, Researcher, Scientists, elected representatives of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), academia, civil society from across the Indian Himalayan Region and IMI members from the mountain states, deliberated on the urgent need to look at disasters in the Himalaya through the lens of water and sustainable development in an interdisciplinary manner at interstate/and also transboundary landscape levels.



At the inaugural session “Geo-Hydrology of the Himalaya and Disasters” Smt Khanduri called for specific solutions that speak in the language of people and linking research work with policies. She stated that IMI could play a big role in coordinating between politicians,

bureaucracy, scientists and communities and to work towards raising the importance of the Himalaya among all people.

Padmashree, Dr. Eklabya Sharma in his keynote address outlined the significance of mountain ecosystems and highlighted the Himalaya as the “Third Pole: and the “Water Tower of Asia”. He stressed that the Himalaya is a hotspot of climate change impacts with warming trends higher than global averages as well as climate change induced disasters.

“Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Resilience in the Himalayan River Basins” technical session 1 had the outcomes of 6th World Conference on Disasters, DehraDun 2023 presented by Dr Durgesh Pant, Director, UCOST and focused on the key recommendations for the Himalaya. The 4 October 2023 Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Sikkim, dam breaches and subsequent floods in Sikkim, West Bengal and Bangladesh highlighted the need for contextual and timely data to be used in disaster planning, preparedness and response. The Teesta Floods also highlighted the needs for transboundary interventions in disaster management. Mr. Anil Raj Rai, Secretary, Land Revenue, Disaster Management, Government of Sikkim, shared the disconnect between academia and practitioners in the GLOF event and called on the need for greater inclusion in the Panchayati Raj Institutions at the ward level.

Technical Session 2 “Management of Water in IHR, Evidence based DRR and way forward” had panellists who offered solutions and way forward for disaster resilience building. The open house and the session highlighted the need for acknowledgement of the gravity of disasters in the Himalaya that results in sensitive policies, practices, appropriate resource allocation and rigorous monitoring.

The MoMS2024 called on urgent response to the increasing frequency and magnitude of disaster in the Himalaya. Existing disaster responses are not appropriate to the socio-ecological importance and fragility of the Himalaya. Existing loss and damage estimations do not truly calculate the complete impacts of disaster in terms of lives, livelihoods, assets, infrastructure and ecology. They were mostly reactionary in nature and do not incorporate the complete disaster cycle. A Himalayan lens is much needed and planning must be at a transboundary river basin level was a major consensus thought at the MoMS2024.

The key recommendations of the MoMS 2024 are:

- Mainstreaming DRR in planning processes with appropriate financial allocations
- Continued research and assessment of the landscape for hazards, vulnerability and risks
- Early warning and dissemination of hazard information that is appropriate and timely
- Recovery, rehabilitation and resilience building as a singular lens of disaster response
- Institutional processes and mechanisms are strengthened from a complete disaster management cycle perspective.
- Regulations for pilgrimage and tourism with a disaster lens
- Continual Capacity building / Education and awareness at all levels and sectors on disaster response
- Policy support that is transboundary in nature with appropriate resource allocation and rigorous monitoring.

The MoMS2024 deliberations are timely with the growing spate of disasters in the Himalaya that impact lives, livelihoods, ecology, the development trajectory and investments. There is a need for the Indian Himalayan Region states to take concerted steps internally to place disaster management as a top priority, mainstream it, as well as collaborate with neighbouring states with greater synergies. These actions require special central support with appropriate policies and resources that goes beyond political boundaries and embraces ecological zonations.



Annual General Meeting

6th Annual General Meeting of Sustainable Development Forum Uttaranchal (SDFU) held on 16th September 2023 in SDFU Office, Dehradun via both Physical and Zoom Meeting (Virtual Mode), chaired by Shri STS Lepcha, Chairman SDFU with 8 councilors and members in attendance. After the Chairman welcome address, Ms Binita Shah, Secretary presented the previous minutes of the meeting of 5th Extra-ordinary AGM, followed by a brief discussion on SDFU pending admin issues and action plan for year 2023-24.

Key Discussion points:

- Brief discussion on action plan for Year 2023-24
- Upcoming workshop for year 2023-24
- New grant related discussion
- Review on current members and Induction of new members
- Review on submission of NMHS 2023-24 project proposal on small grant about the livelihood based on fibres and nettle in the border areas of Uttarakhand



List of SDFU Councilors / Members

S.no	Name	Designation
1	Shri STS Lepcha	Chairman
2	Dr Gopal Singh Rawat	Vice- Chairman / Acting Treasurer
3	Ms Binita Shah	Secretary
4	Dr Rajendra P Dobhal	Councilor
5	Ms Vibha Puri Das	Councilor
6	Shri N S Napalchiyal	Councilor
7	Dr.B S Barfal	Councilor
8	Dr B K Joshi	Councilor
9	Shri N Ravi Shanker	Councilor
10	Shri Krishna S. Rautela	Member
11	Shri Anoop Nautiyal	Member
12	Ms Priyanka Tolia	Member
13	Ms Richa Ghansiyal	Member

Our Partners and Supporters



Auditor's Report & Balance Sheet



| 602, Orchid Green Apartment,
| GMS Road, Dehradun-248001
| 9012192999 / 9412055318
| Email: dehradun@adroitandco.in
| Website: www.adroitandco.in

ADROIT & CO
Chartered Accountants
(Formerly known as Tarun Nand & Company)

Offices at New Delhi, Ranchi, Chandigarh, Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad & Gurugram

Auditor's Report

1 We have audited the financial statements of **Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)**, 5/6, New 25, Lane No.3, Teg Bahadur Road, Dehradun which comprises Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024, the statement of Income & Expenditure A/c for the year then ended, and a Notes to the Accounts and other informations.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

2 Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance in accordance with the Accounting Standard generally accept in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and Completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation & presentation of financial Statements that give a true & fair view and are free from materials misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

3 Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and the disclosures in the financial statements. The procedure selected depends on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessment, the auditor considers internal financial control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements that give a true & fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements.

Opinion

4 Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

In our opinion and information & explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles of the state of affairs as and its surplus for the year ended on that date.

We report, subject to Notes to accounts and our Audit observations to this report of even date that :

- A We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of the audit.
- B In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept at the office, so far as appears from our examination of the books.
- C In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts, read with notes thereon, if any, give a true and fair view :-
 - (i) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of the affairs as **31st March, 2024**, and
 - (ii) In the case of Income & Expenditure A/c for the year ended on that date.
 - (iii) In the case of Receipts & Payments A/c for the year ended on that date.

Dated : 06-09-2024

For **ADROIT & CO**
Chartered Accountants



(CA. Tarun Agarwal)
Partner

FRN No.: 006547N / M.No.: 093945
UDIN No.: 24093945BKKG75216

Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)
5/6, New 25, Lane No.3, Teg Bahadur Road, Dehradun

Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2024

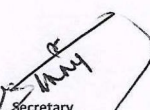
PARTICULARS	Note No.	As at 31st March 2024	As at 31st March 2023
		(in Rs.)	(in Rs.)
Liabilities:			
Capital Account			
Corpus Capital Fund	1	668,258.43	937,157.02
Earmarked Grant Fund	2	-	-
General Surplus Fund	3	-	176,609.71
Current Liabilities			
Sundry Creditors & Payables	4	-	-
TOTAL	>>>	668,258.43	1,113,766.73
Assets			
Fixed Assets			
As per details	5	28,772.75	43,097.35
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6	639,485.68	1,070,669.38
TOTAL	>>>	668,258.43	1,113,766.73

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts

On behalf of the Board Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)


Chairman




Secretary

Dated : 06-09-2024

For ADROIT & CO
Chartered Accountants





(CA. Tarun Agarwal)
Partner

FRN No.: 006547N / M.No.: 093945
UDIN No.: 24093945BKBKGT5216

Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)

5/6, New 25, Lane No.3, Teg Bahadur Road, Dehradun

Schedules to the Balance Sheet

Note	Name of the Balance Sheet items	Year 2023-2024			
		As at 31st March 2023	Transactions during the year (Debit/Credit)		As at 31st March 2024
1	Corpus Capital Fund				
1	Corpus Fund	825,769.46	755,459.30	597,948.27	668,258.43
2	Others	-	-	-	-
	Total	825,769.46	755,459.30	597,948.27	668,258.43
2	Earmarked Grant Fund				
1	Grant Name	-			-
2	Others				-
	Total	-	-	-	-
3	General Surplus Fund				
1	Surplus from Income & Expenditure A/c	176,609.71	176,609.71		-
2	Others				-
	Total	176,609.71	176,609.71	-	-
4	Current Liabilities				
1	Sundry Creditors	-	-	-	-
2	Other Payables	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-
5	Fixed Assets	As at 31-03-2023	Addition	Depreciation	As at 31-03-2024
1	Laptop	9,360.00		3,744.00	5,616.00
2	Printer	6,473.60		971.04	5,502.56
3	Computer & Others	22,080.00		8,832.00	13,248.00
4	Office Electric Kettle	1,530.00		229.50	1,300.50
5	Office Room Heater	3,653.75		548.06	3,105.69
	Total	43,097.35	-	14,324.60	28,772.75
6	Cash & Cash Equivalents	As at 31-03-2023	Debits	Credits	As at 31-03-2024
1	UBI Bank No. 60260201005552	1,070,669.38	636,780.00	1,067,963.70	639,485.68
2	Cash In Hand	-			-
	Total	1,070,669.38	636,780.00	1,067,963.70	639,485.68



Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)

5/6, New 25, Lane No.3, Teg Bahadur Road, Dehradun

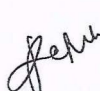
Income & Expenditure Account

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2024


PARTICULARS		Note No.	As at 31st March 2024	As at 31st March 2023
A	Fund Receiveds :			
1	Grants		575,000.00	500,000.00
2	Other Receipts		23,010.00	-
3	Bank Interest		38,770.00	33,535.00
	Total (A)	>>>	636,780.00	533,535.00
B	Fund Payments :			
a	RST Forum Expenses:			
1	RST Forum /Secretariat Expenses		19,321.00	34,732.50
2	Consultancy fee/ Salary		-	6,000.00
3	Accommodation /Conference Expenses		78,116.00	16,800.00
4	Travelling & Local Conveyance Expenses		7,085.50	44,200.00
5	Printing & Stationery/Video & Photos Expenses		50,897.00	13,252.00
6	Misc. & Office Expenses		7,242.00	400.00
b	SDFU Workshop:			
1	Consultancy /Honorarium Expenses		23,750.00	58,000.00
2	Meeting /Conference & Workshop Expenses		105,250.00	39,322.00
3	Travelling & Local Conveyance		43,125.28	3,300.00
4	Printing & Stationery/Video & Photos Expenses		41,357.00	13,609.00
5	Misc. & Office Expenses		15,714.00	-
c	Administrative Expenses:			
1	Consultancy Fees		120,000.00	70,000.00
2	Audit fees		29,500.00	70,800.00
3	Bank Charges		251.94	660.80
4	Office Rent		30,000.00	22,500.00
5	Courier Expenses		1,030.00	220.00
6	Office / Utility Expenses		74,909.03	41,126.25
7	Misc. Expenses		63,492.73	30,015.72
8	Travelling & Local Conveyance		39,047.00	166,805.00
9	Website & Software Expense		31,657.00	24,471.22
10	Printing & Stationery		106,899.00	120,948.49
11	Meeting / AGM Expenses		54,319.22	37,212.00
12	Grant Given		125,000.00	-
13	Depreciation		14,324.60	22,668.65
	Total (B)		1,082,288.30	837,043.63
>>	Excess of Expenditure over Income = (A - B)		(445,508.30)	(303,508.63)

On behalf of the Board Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)

For ADROIT & CO
Chartered Accountants


Chairman

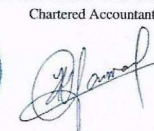



Secretary



Dated : 06-09-2024





(CA. Tarun Agarwal)
Partner

FRN No. 006547N / M.No. 093945
UDIN No.: 24093945BKBKGT5216



25, Lane 3, Teg Bahadur Road
Dalanwala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248001



sdfumail@gmail.com



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